



## Brave Hearts

### GRACE IN ACTION

God has us join Him in His work.

#### Power Text

"Come, let's go over. . . . Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord in saving, whether by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

#### Key Text and References

1 Samuel 14:1-23; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 616-626; student story on page 134 of this guide.

#### Objectives

##### The students will:

**Know** that God will be with them when they do His will.

**Feel** that God has a work He wants them to do for Him.

**Respond** by being bold and active for God.

#### Power Point



God uses me as He makes things happen.

## Getting Ready to Teach

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The armies of Israel and the Philistines are preparing for battle. Jonathan, Saul's son, decides (is prompted by God) that some action is needed. Placing his faith and trust in God, he and his armor-bearer advance on the enemy, winning a great victory for God.

#### *This is a lesson about grace in action.*

Often people are like Saul, caught up

in their own plans or their own inadequacy. Jonathan was attuned to the prompting of God and stepped out in faith to work, through God's grace and by His power.

### Teacher Enrichment

**"The Lord will work.** Jonathan did not depend so much on his armor as on the unlimited power of God. He simply used that which he had at hand,

# THIRTEEN

| Program Notes         |         |                                                                                 |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lesson Section        | Minutes | Activities                                                                      | Materials Needed                                                                                   |
| Welcome               | Ongoing | Greet students at door<br>Hear pleased/troubled                                 |                                                                                                    |
| 1 Readiness           | 10-15   | A. <i>Get Up and Go</i><br>B. <i>Go Where He Leads</i>                          | Blindfolds, paper, pencils                                                                         |
| * Prayer and Praise*  | 15-20   | See page 130.<br>*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. |                                                                                                    |
| 2 Bible Lesson        | 15-20   | Introducing the Bible Story                                                     |                                                                                                    |
|                       |         | Experiencing the Story                                                          | 10 sheets heavy paper for signs                                                                    |
|                       |         | Exploring the Bible                                                             | Bibles                                                                                             |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | 10-15   | Scenario                                                                        |                                                                                                    |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson  | 10-15   | Feet First                                                                      | Plain, white, flat shoelaces, fabric pens or permanent markers, index cards with two holes punched |

and God blessed his humble dependence on Heaven. . . .

**"If they say.** . . . Jonathan made the call of the enemy to 'come up' a sign that God would fight for them. To scale the perpendicular walls of the northern crag was a seemingly impossible feat, especially with armor. God is honored when men expect great things of Him and attempt great things for Him. . . .

**"The Lord saved Israel.** Here is a noteworthy example of divine power cooperating with human effort. Jonathan longed for deliverance from the incursions of the Philistines. Events of the day leave

no doubt but that his aspiration was born of the Holy Spirit. Jonathan saw the impulsive fit of depression that afflicted his father, but this only inspired him with greater confidence in the divine Ruler, who had called Saul in the first place. With every advance step Jonathan felt a surge of power, born of faith, that strengthened him for the next" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 515, 516).

*How powerful do I feel today? In what ways has God used me to "make things happen?" What evidence do I have that God is working for me?*

## Teaching the Lesson

### Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their table/small group leader. Have leader ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Then debrief student(s) on their Bible study activities last week. Say: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** (The leader should know what the students' activities were for the past week so he/she can direct discussion.) Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

# 1

## Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

### A. Get Up and Go

Have exactly half of the students sit in a circle. They are the "doers." The other half take their places behind them. They are the "instruction givers." Say: **The people standing are to come to me and get instructions they are going to give the people seated. Then the people seated should immediately do what they were asked to do, not paying any attention to anyone else.**

Call the instruction givers to you and tell all but three to give the instructions: "Just sit still. Don't do anything." (The three you choose for different instructions should be those who will be giving instructions to students who are not extremely shy.) Give the other three simple but obvious instructions such as: "Stand on a chair and sing 'Jesus Loves Me' out loud"; "dust the room's furniture"; "make a cup of mud"; etc.

Send the "instruction givers" back to their places. Give a signal for instructions to be given. All the "instruction givers" will whisper into the ears of their "doers." Ideally, only three people will get up and do something.

Allow the three to carry out their activity for a few seconds and then call for the second round.

Have the "instruction givers" stand behind different "doers." Call the "instruction givers" to yourself again. Give the same "Just sit" instructions to all but two this time. Give the two other simple but active instructions. Send them all back to their "doers." Have them give their instructions.

If it is appropriate, continue one more round so that eventually only one person gets up and does something with all the rest of the students just sitting there.

### Debriefing

Ask the doers: **How was it to get up and do something when everyone else was just sitting there?** (Encourage them to share their reactions.) **Was it easier or harder to do something when others were also? Was it easier or harder to have to do different things than other people were doing? How did it feel to be the only person doing something?**

Say: **Our lesson today is about some young men who got up and did something God prompted them to do, when 600 older men were just sitting around being scared and depressed. Find 1 Samuel 14:6 and let's read it aloud together.** Give them time to find the text and read it with you. **When we are willing to get up and act when God prompts us, He can do great things for and through us.**



God uses me as He makes things happen.

## B. Go Where He Leads

### You Need:

- paper
- pencils
- blindfolds

Blindfold half the students. Give each student a sheet of paper and pencil and ask them to follow your directions. Ask them to draw a tree on one side of the paper, then a cliff on the other side. Then they are to go back and draw a figure (Saul) under the tree. Finally, ask them to place two figures (Jonathan and his armor-bearer) climbing up the face of the cliff.

Have the blindfolded students take off their blindfolds and then all the students compare their drawings.

### Debriefing

Ask: **What made the difference in the two sets of drawings?** (Some couldn't see what they were doing.) **How is this like our life?**

Say: **God gives us the eyesight of faith through His Spirit to be able to do what He asks us to do. In our story today two young men go and do something rather bold for God. Find 1 Samuel 14:6 and let's read it aloud together.** Give them time to find the text and read it with you. **When we can see through the eyesight of faith and follow where His Spirit leads us, God can do great things for and through us.**



God uses me as He makes things happen.

## Prayer and Praise



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

### Suggested Songs

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 146)

"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 126)

"Side by Side" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 123)

"I'm Yours, Lord" (*Praise Time*, No. 40)

### Prayer

Say: **The story this week is about a young man who faced a battle for the Lord. He prayed and allowed the Lord to do mighty things through him. What things would you like God to do through you? Let's kneel and ask Him to use us to make great things happen.**

### Mission

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth Adults* or another mission report available to you.

### Offering

Invite students to contribute their offerings to God's work. Say: **God will use our time, talents, and our money to do great things.**

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\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

## 2

## Bible Lesson

## Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **We have already had a lesson about when Saul and Jonathan were killed. And we've had a lesson about King David, who reigned after Saul. But today we are going to jump backward a little and study about Prince Jonathan. He was willing to follow God's prompting and act in faith, even if His father and the other soldiers were sitting around feeling depressed and defeated.**

## Experiencing the Story

**You Need:**

- Bibles
- signs

Assign the following roles and have students each make a sign stating what their role is.

You will need:

**Narrator**—who will read 1 Samuel 14:1-23, pausing to give time for the story to be acted out.

**Jonathan** (main character)—begins in the Israelite camp

**Jonathan's armor-bearer**—is with Jonathan.

**Ahijah (the priest)**—is in the Israelite camp.

**Saul (the king)**—sitting (or sleeping) under the pomegranate tree in the Israelite camp.

**Shiny cliff, or Bozez, which means white, shiny or soft, tender**—in the middle of the room facing the other cliff.

**Thorny cliff, or Seneh, was covered in thornbushes and was easier to climb**—in the middle of the room facing the other cliff.

**Philistine lookout**—who is patrolling the sleeping Philistine camp.

**Philistines**—half the remaining students at one end of the room (sleeping

to begin with).

**Israelites**—the rest of the students at the other end of the room (sleeping to begin with).

As the narrator reads the story the characters will act out each part.

**Debriefing**

Ask: **What specific events led to this great victory? Who contributed the most?** (Jonathan) **How was this possible from someone who was so young?** (God called him and empowered him; he stayed connected with God through prayer; he trusted God and was willing to step out and take action for Him.)

## Exploring the Bible

Say: **Jonathan felt God's prompting, prayed for guidance, and got up and took action for God, through His power. Let's look back on the stories we have studied this quarter and see where we can find this same type of faith and action taking place.**

Divide the students into groups. Ask each group to think of one of the Bible characters they have studied, look over the Bible story about them, and then decide what event in their lives showed faith in action, similar to Jonathan's. Tell them they can go outside of this quarter's lessons if they would like to.

When each group has decided on their character and event, play a game of 20 questions, letting each group answer either yes or no to the questions of the other students until they have guessed that group's character and event.

Possibilities from this quarter include: Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 13); Joshua

**You Need:**

- Bibles

crosses the Jordan (Joshua 1-6); Joshua defeats Jericho (Joshua 6-8); Hannah gives Samuel to God (1 Samuel 1, 2).

#### **Debriefing**

Ask: **How were the characters we just guessed like Jonathan in faith and action? How were they differ-**

**ent? How can you be a young person of faith and action?** (Staying connected to God; listening for His prompting; taking action even if others don't.)



**God uses me as He makes things happen.**

## 3

### Applying the Lesson

#### **Scenario**

Read the following scenario to your students: **Juana and Marta are junior deaconesses at their church. They attend a Sabbath afternoon meeting of the deaconesses. The topic of the meeting is what their church can do to make an impact on their community. Many possible activities are discussed, but they seem rather unrelated to Juana's and Marta's lives. Almost everything that is discussed, someone at the meeting points out obstacles to putting into practice. Most of the obstacles involve time and money.**

**After the meeting, the girls talk about it. They feel God is calling them to do something, but they feel young and alone.**

#### **Debriefing**

Ask: **What would you tell Juana and Marta about the way they are feeling? What should they do about it? Can you suggest any actions they can take for God in faith? Remember,**



**God uses me as He makes things happen.**

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

**Feet First****You Need:**

- plain, white, flat shoelace for each student
- fabric pens OR permanent markers
- index cards with two holes punched

Have the students decorate the shoelaces with dots, stripes, or wavy lines.

Let them write one of the following texts on their cards, before threading the lace through the holes.

1. 2 Samuel 22:34  
“He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights” (NIV).

2. Job 23:11 “My feet have closely fol-

lowed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside” (NIV).

3. Psalm 17:5 “My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped” (NIV).

4. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (NIV).

5. Ephesians 6:15 “Stand firm then, . . . with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (NIV).

**Debriefing**

Ask: **Why did you choose the text you did? How can you keep your feet walking God’s way this week?**

Say: **Plan to share your message of God’s ability to make things happen through ordinary young people with someone this week.**

**Closing**

Ask God to help you and your students have minds alert to His leading and guidance. Pray that you will all be brave to go wherever He wants you to go.



## STUDENT LESSON

# Brave Hearts

## Key Text

1 Samuel 14:1-23

## Power Text

"Come, let's go over. . . . Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord in saving, whether by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

## Power Point

God  
uses me as  
He makes  
things  
happen.

*Have you ever been frustrated because "bad guys" seemed to be in charge and "good guys" just stood around and did nothing? Have you ever wondered what God wanted you to do about it? Sometimes God asks us to wait, but sometimes He asks us to act in faith. In this story, two young men felt God called them to action.*

"How much longer do we need to sit around this camp and do nothing?" Jonathan, the king's son, was frustrated. His father and 600 men were camped out here under this pomegranate tree. They were depressed, bored, and the king certainly didn't seem able to motivate anybody. Some of the soldiers had even sneaked off to hide in nearby bushes and caves. Worst of all, the heathen Philistines, their enemies, were just laughing at these people who claimed to worship a powerful God.

This pitiful little band under the tree were armed with slings and bows and arrows. No one but the king and his son had swords or spears. The bothersome, arrogant Philistines even had the weapons under their control.

"I feel we should do something," Jonathan said to his faithful young armor-bearer. "I think we should make a secret attack on the Philistine outpost. I know that the Lord can do something mighty and save us whether we are a lot or just a few. We might at least be able to get some weapons."

"I am with you," his faithful friend replied, "heart and soul."

Very early the next morning, after committing their way to God, the two young men tiptoed past the dozing guards and made their way out of camp and down the gorge separating the two camps. As they came to the base of the thorny cliff on the other side, Jonathan had a strange idea. "Let them see us!" he said. "If they challenge us by saying, 'Stay there, we are on our way down to teach

you a thing or two,' we will go back into the shadows and make our way back to our camp. But if they challenge us by saying, 'If you want to fight, show us your courage and come up here,' that will be a sign from God that He will help us win."

"Sounds like a plan to me," his armor-bearer agreed. And the two young men started clamoring about at the bottom of the gorge in full view of the enemy lookout.

A Philistine sentry spotted them almost immediately. "Hey, look what we have here—some frightened Hebrews who are crawling out of the holes they have been hiding in." He yelled down to them, "Come up here and show us your courage." Little did he know that was exactly what they planned to do!

Jonathan and his armor-bearer smiled as they heard the sign they were waiting for. "Come on, let's go win this battle." And they dropped out of sight again and took a secret and difficult path up the cliff face.

They took the Philistines by surprise. There was lots of yelling and sword wielding. Then the earth started to tremble, rock, and shake. "That must be God joining in the battle in a mighty way," Jonathan called to his armor-bearer above the noise.

The whole Philistine camp was in a panic, with soldiers waking to the ground rocking and the sounds of battle. They didn't wait to see what was happening. All they wanted to do was run. And run they did—in all directions—away from the camp.

The noise and confusion in the Philistine camp caught the attention of the Hebrew lookouts. They ran to Saul and reported what they were hearing. Saul called out to Ahijah the priest, "Quick, get the ark of the Lord and see what we should be doing."

Saul should have done that days ago. And now he was even too impatient to wait for the answer. "Forget it," he called back over his shoulder. "We don't have time to pray; I'm going to battle."

Saul and his band were able to chase the already confused Philistines away from the area. Even some of the Hebrews who had been hiding in the hills and caves came out when they smelled the victory, and joined in the hot pursuit.

As the day ended, Jonathan and his armor-bearer praised God for what He had done through them. Never in their wildest dreams had they expected such an amazing result. Jonathan grinned at his armor-bearer. "I told you I had the impression God wanted us to get up and do something."

## Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 94.

## Sunday

- Read "Brave Hearts."
- Write the power text out with one word on each line, indenting each word a little from the one above.
- Draw a line down the outside edge of the words—like the side of a hill. Then add a stick figure on its knees on the hill. As you read over the power text a few times remember that nothing can hinder the Lord from saving you.
- Get on your knees to pray. At the end of your prayer, stay on your knees and repeat the power text one more time.

## Monday

- Read 1 Samuel 13:16-23.
- Can you imagine how these soldiers felt going into battle with no weapons?
- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and note how important spiritual armor is.
- Ask God for a full suit of God's armor to protect you from the enemy.

## Tuesday

- Read 1 Samuel 14:1-7.
- On paper or in your Bible study journal, draw a large circle (a shield). Decorate the edges. Write the word "Faith" (Ephesians 6:16) in the middle. On the shield write ways that you can show your faith. Add to the list as the week progresses.
- Ask God to give you the faith you need to get into action for God.

## Wednesday

- Read 1 Samuel 14:8-12.
- Can you think of other times in the Bible when people have asked for or God has given a sign? (Refer to Genesis 9:13; Judges 6:37-40.)
- God does not always give signs. Sometimes He wants us to move ahead and act, or ask advice from Christian adults. By making sure our actions are in harmony with His Word we will stay close to Him.
- Pray that you will not sit about idle as Saul did, but will become active for God.

## Thursday

- Read 1 Samuel 14:13-15.
- Have you ever experienced an earthquake? Recently some devastating ones have done tremendous damage. What action could you take to help victims of earthquakes?
- Ask God for a heart of compassion to reach out to those in need.

## Friday

- Read 1 Samuel 14:16-23.
- Whom are you most like? \_\_\_Saul, the leader who does nothing; \_\_\_the scared Hebrews who run and hide until victory is sure; \_\_\_Jonathan, a young man of action; \_\_\_the armor-bearer, who supported the young man of faith.
- Tell the story to your family.
- Whom do they think you are most like? Whom do they think they are most like?
- Ask God for the wisdom to stay connected with Him through faith, and the courage to face whatever He has for you to do in His power.